

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio State Engineer

Title: Using Students For Part-Time Work

Creators: Faust, H. M.

Issue Date: Oct-1930

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 14, no. 1 (October, 1930), 11, 22.

Abstract: The university is quite liberal in endeavoring to assist students in a financial way. Besides the Loan Fund, which gives such help in a direct way, every attempt to employ students is fostered. Undergraduates who are in search of part-time work often secure such through the department with which they are affiliated. Of course, those students who have had the good fortune to be associated with a particular industry or trade are usually given the preference, but this is not always essential. In this article, Mr. Faust gives us an interesting account of student employment in the college of engineering. Evidently much is to be gained from such employment aside from a monetary benefit. —Editor.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34853>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 14, no. 1 \(October, 1930\)](#)

USING STUDENTS FOR PART-TIME WORK

By H. M. FAUST, *Research Engineer*

The Engineering Experiment Station recently finished the first series of boiler tests in connection with the project, *The Investigation of Ohio Coal*. During these tests students were used as test observers.

The practice of using students on part time work has, we understand, been followed extensively on the campus for some time, so our program of enlisting and breaking in a boiler test crew is not new. However, the fact that this crew numbered twenty-four men, each required to put in six hours per day and six days per week, covering operation throughout the twenty-four hours of the day is, we think, somewhat out of the ordinary. The surprising part of our experience was the continued interest and reliability shown by the men. Much of the work was tedious and strenuous, often under unpleasant physical conditions, but this did not dampen the cooperative spirit of the men. Over three-fourths of the crew who expect to be in school this fall have requested that they be included in the roster of the crew when the work is resumed.

There are some interesting data which might be given relative to our experience with this student crew. When the plan of using students was first considered, there was some doubt as to whether a sufficient number of men could be found to fill all of the four shifts, starting at 6 a. m., 12 noon, 6 p. m., and 12 midnight. Rather elaborate arrangements were made to advertise for these men. Much to our surprise we found sufficient applicants to fill all of the jobs five hours after the first notice appeared in the *Official Daily Bulletin*, and a hurried but unsuccessful attempt was made to cancel a repeat run in that medium and a similar notice in the *Daily Lantern*. This slight advertising resulted in a list of well over one hundred and fifty applicants. Just a word as to the colleges in which these men were enrolled—the percentages were as follows:

Engineering	32%
Agriculture	30%
Arts	18%
Commerce and Administration ...	10%
Miscellaneous	10%

There were only two of the entire number of applicants who had had any previous experience of value in this work and that was very limited. Of course, this same condition would probably

have existed if we had obtained men on the outside, because we could not have hoped to obtain any appreciable percentage of experienced boiler test observers for temporary positions, considering the money available for this work. From the standpoint of ease in breaking in the crew for this work, it was felt that engineering students would be most desirable but it was found that the available time specified by these students was almost invariably on the shift starting at 6 p. m., and consequently we were forced to pick the majority of the men on the crew from colleges other than engineering. In general, it seemed that the men

in the colleges other than engineering were able to avail themselves of more flexible schedules and had more spare time, thus making it possible for them to fit in on any one of two or three different shifts.

Of course, the work was not without its humorous incidents. One hot, sultry afternoon towards the last of the tests, operation was going along smoothly—all was serene and quiet, with the crew carrying on the routine work of weighing coal, measuring water, making flue gas analyses and other things that go to make up a real boiler test midst the smoke and grime of the boiler room. Suddenly, with no accommodating warning, a terrific explosive blast rent the air. Safety was uppermost in the minds of the crew—two of them made a dash down the length of the boiler room heading for a stairway leading outside (there was a convenient door within fifty feet of their original starting point), another

of the crew headed for the closest window, and still another for a temporary pile of bricks. The opening of a safety "pop" valve was a new experience for these men. Cutting down the windbox pressure under the stoker for a few minutes quickly silenced the roar and within a few minutes normal routine again prevailed, but the sheepish look of certain members of the crew was sufficient cause to produce broad smiles on the faces of the regular plant operating crew hours after the incident had occurred.

A week or so after the tests had been started—after the men on the crews had at least partially accustomed their habits to the strenuous task of carrying a college schedule and working six additional hours each day, another amusing incident occurred. One of the men assigned to the mid-

(Continued on Page 22)

The university is quite liberal in endeavoring to assist students in a financial way. Besides the Loan Fund, which gives such help in a direct way, every attempt to employ students is fostered. Undergraduates who are in search of part-time work often secure such through the department with which they are affiliated.

Of course, those students who have had the good fortune to be associated with a particular industry or trade are usually given the preference, but this is not always essential.

In this article, Mr. Faust gives us an interesting account of student employment in the college of engineering. Evidently much is to be gained from such employment aside from a monetary benefit.

—Editor.

STUDENTS FOR PART-TIME WORK

(Continued from Page 11)

night shift for the removal of ash refuse and the working up of coal and ash refuse samples failed to report at the usual hour on the night in question. It so happened that the work on this particular night was such that by doubling up several of the other jobs we could get along without this man, and no attempt was made to bring in a substitute. As a matter of fact this was the first time a man had failed to show up promptly for his shift and at that hour of the night the finding of a substitute would have been quite difficult. At any rate, nothing out of the ordinary happened until ten minutes to four in the morning, when a very excited young man came rushing in and gasped in one breath, "I'm sorry I am so late—I hope I didn't cause any inconvenience—You know, one of the other fellows in the house wanted to take a little nap and then get up about ten o'clock and cram for a midterm so I loaned him my alarm clock and he was to wake me at quarter after eleven—yes, he got up all right and he was still studying when I left at quarter to four, but he forgot to wake me." We haven't heard the details relating to the grand finale of this little skit but we feel that at his leisure, it undoubtedly was handled to the entire satisfaction of the tardy ashman.

Certainly, the use of student help on work of this sort has its good points, bad points, and humorous phases. Our recent experience has led us to believe that the use of students for part-time work is justified by the quality of work obtained. In addition, the use of students partially lightens the burden placed on those supervising the work when breaking in the crew and besides, it gives the students an opportunity to broaden out and increase their experience and assists them in overcoming financial handicaps.
